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Addendum

MAIN PROGRAMME RECORD

UNDP IN AFRICA

SUMMARY

The present document provides summary highlights of UNDP work in the Africa region in 1997 and of future challenges that UNDP would like to bring to the Executive Board. The report builds on and complements the introduction to the annual report of the Administrator for 1997 (DP/1998/17) and the other addenda, particularly addenda 2 and 3.

* The main programme record for 1997 consists of five parts: Part I - UNDP in Africa; Part II - UNDP in the Arab States; Part III - UNDP in Asia and the Pacific; Part IV - UNDP in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States; and Part V - UNDP in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. An economic turnaround is taking place in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa's annual average real gross domestic product growth rate has increased from an average of 1.9 per cent in the 1980s to 2.5 per cent from 1990 to 1995, rising to 4.8 per cent in 1996 and estimated 4.75 per cent in 1997.[1] Over 40 African countries have embarked on economic reform programmes, dismantling historically restrictive legislation on trade, investment and foreign exchange controls. The economies of Africa are now more open and the macroeconomic environment is more conducive to private sector expansion. Inflation remains high and although investment and savings ratios have recovered from their low levels of the 1980s and early 1990s, they are still well below their potential.

2. Politically, Africa is experiencing a strong transition to representative democracies. In addition to longer-standing democracies such as Botswana and Mauritius, other countries such as Benin, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, and the United Republic of Tanzania have moved to pluralistic systems.

3. The new democracies are often fragile and prone to reversal, as happened in Sierra Leone in May 1997. Sustained efforts are required to rebuild and strengthen Africa's political institutions so as to enable them to forestall non-democratic changes in leadership and to anticipate and address crises throughout the region.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997 ACHIEVEMENTS

4. In 1997, UNDP called for a new development partnership between donors and African countries, which would take into account the many and varied initiatives and plans under way, such as the Cairo Agenda for Action, which was adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1995, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa (UNSIA), which was launched in March 1996. Together with the Government of Japan, the Global Coalition for Africa and the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (OSCAL), UNDP is co-organizer of the Tokyo International Conference for African Development II (TICAD II), which is scheduled to be held in October 1998. Several activities were undertaken in 1997 under TICAD II, mainly to promote South-South cooperation. A progress report on UNSIA is provided in document DP/1998/17/Add.5.

5. Individual countries received UNDP support, in the area of strategic thinking and planning, using the National Long-Term Perspective Studies (NLTPS) methodology. Fifteen countries (Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe) successfully completed their NLTPS. In his first speech in 1998, the King of

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[1] Source: World Economic and Social Survey, 1997, p. 236, United Nations, New York.

Swaziland cited "Vision 2020 - National Development Strategy", as the most significant achievement for the year 1997. These countries are now well-placed to integrate short- and long-term planning and to have a clearer view of where they would most like to be 25 years from now. A second phase of NLTPS was launched in 1997. This phase focuses on operationalizing long-term visions in these countries and involving additional countries in designing their long-term visions.

6. UNDP interventions in 1997 focused on the key areas of: (a) poverty eradication; (b) governance and support to countries in special development situations; (c) gender equality and the advancement of women; (d) environmental protection; and (e) implementing UNDP 2001, with a view to streamlining operations and improving delivery and substantive backstopping to country offices.

A. Poverty eradication

7. With Africa projected to be the only region to enter the twenty-first century with more people in poverty than in the previous century, poverty eradication was a major priority for UNDP support in the region, as reflected in all of the country cooperation frameworks (CCFs). Over 30 countries prepared poverty strategies with the support of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA). These strategies laid the foundation for policy dialogue and the preparation of poverty eradication programmes for resource mobilization during Consultative Group meetings and round-table conferences.

8. Twenty-three African countries had poverty-focused national human development reports (NHDRs) in 1997, compared to ten in 1996. Angola, Benin, the Comoros, Guinea, Madagascar, Nigeria and Uganda produced NHDRs for the first time. The NHDRs, which are being used for internal policy dialogue between different segments of society, sought to highlight the differences between quantitative and qualitative approaches to poverty. Where possible, NHDRs underscored the differences between income poverty and human poverty. The coexistence of high growth rates with poverty, as noted in the reports for Benin and Uganda, reaffirmed the importance of ensuring that growth is broad-based and accompanied by measures to improve income distribution. In Benin and Namibia, an information system to prepare National Human Development Indexes and to assess and monitor the impact of policies and programmes on the reduction of poverty was designed.

9. UNDP worked with other donors in 1997 to build on the Poverty Profiles and Public Expenditures Reviews, prepared jointly with the World Bank, for Burkina Faso and Togo in 1996. These provided information on the nature and extent of poverty and served as a basis for taking appropriate action to combat it.

10. An important element of UNDP anti-poverty activities is its work to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. UNDP continued to pioneer HIV/AIDS-awareness programmes in African countries. In Uganda, for example, UNDP support contributed towards slowing down the rate of infection. In December 1997, UNDP sponsored an African mayors seminar, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, that led to the formation of an Alliance of African Mayors to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

11. After 20 years of sustained effort, UNDP, jointly with the World Bank and bilateral donors, has worked towards the virtual elimination of onchocerciasis (river blindness) from the Niger and Volta River basins, reclaiming land for over 1 million people in 10 countries in West Africa. The poor in Africa generally lack access to clean water and proper sanitation. In 12 countries, UNDP, in collaboration with the World Bank and other bilateral donors, has brought safe drinking water to millions of people in rural African communities and has promoted the establishment of private sector maintenance companies.

12. Selected UNDP support to African countries in the area of poverty eradication included:

(a) In Botswana, a study on the nature and extent of poverty financed by UNDP as well as a symposium on poverty co-financed by UNDP and the Government of Norway greatly improved dialogue on poverty among the various groups in the country;

(b) In Mauritius, the Government prepared and is implementing its poverty eradication strategy. The President has set the year 2007 as the deadline for the eradication of absolute poverty in that country;

(c) In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNDP helped to produce a poverty assessment in Shinyanga region. Under the Africa 2000 programme, UNDP technical assistance enables village women to regenerate their environment, establish viable industries and make a meaningful contribution to development;

(d) In South Africa, UNDP co-financed the national Poverty and Inequality Study with the World Bank and sponsored a study on poverty measurement. Both studies were well received by the Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society groups, and the academic community as important tools for tackling poverty. UNDP supported the Safety and Security Programme, building capacity in crime prevention, and promoted employment generation through small- and medium-scale enterprises for women and rural communities, labour-intensive schemes, and skills enhancement. UNDP also supported the provision of affordable housing and improved health facilities, the latter through the use of United Nations Volunteer (UNV) health professionals in poor communities, as well as a labour market policy review and a review of public expenditure on basic social services, jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

13. In the area of job creation, RBA continued to support, mainly through private sector development and community-based programmes, such initiatives as the Africa Project Development Facility, which was created in 1986, jointly with the African Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation; Empresas Technologica; the African Management Services Company; and the Africa 2000 Network programme. The year 1997 saw the start-up of the Enterprise Africa, with help from Ghana and Zimbabwe, and the launch of the MicroStart and Women's World Banking projects in African countries.

B. Governance and support to countries in special development situations

14. RBA interventions in the area of governance in 1997 focused on supporting Africa's efforts to build committed and enlightened leadership; to strengthen public accountability; to promote the transition to democratic processes; to empower civil society organizations so that they can participate meaningfully in economic and social activities; to address conflict situations; and to rehabilitate and reconstruct war-torn societies.

15. RBA supports governance both through its regional programme and through country cooperation frameworks. The $10 million UNDP Norwegian Trust Fund for Governance in Africa (a two-year initiative that began in 1996) has been instrumental in financing the Bureau's governance interventions, especially its regional initiatives. Almost all country cooperation frameworks include governance as a key priority.

16. With the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNDP is co-lead agency for the governance component of the UNSIA. To enhance dialogue and the exchange of lessons learned and to improve overall understanding of the key governance challenges in Africa, RBA organized or co-organized a number of high-level meetings, such as the First Africa Governance Forum co-organised with ECA, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 1997. The Forum, which will become an annual event, enabled 14 African countries to present their national governance programmes to their development partners and to exchange lessons learned on governance. It is hoped that the annual forum will serve to keep governance issues at the forefront of the development dialogue and will help to identify key governance priorities and facilitate the mobilization of resources to fill the gap between requirements and available domestic resources. The next Forum will be held in Accra, Ghana, in June 1998, and will focus on accountability and transparency.

17. Dialogue on governance was also promoted through the medium of the multi-donor, World Bank-chaired Special Programme of Assistance to Africa (SPA), especially through the Civil Service Working Group, which is coordinated and chaired by RBA. Under this working group, RBA is coordinating the preparation of a training package on civil service reform in Africa, based on the "Guiding Principles on Civil Service Reform in Africa", which were prepared by SPA under UNDP Management in 1995. The training package will be presented to African civil service reform managers at a validation workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in mid-1998.

18. Also in 1997, RBA started to compile an inventory of governance projects in Africa to determine resource requirements and to highlight the remaining gaps to be filled. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNDP mobilized resources from a number of donors, including the Governments of Ireland and Norway, in support of the national programme on governance launched in 1997. The programme focuses on enhancing the capacities of political parties and strengthening the Commissions of Finance, External Affairs, and Constitutional and Judiciary Affairs. Equipment and material support was provided to introduce the Hansard System for proceedings and records and to improve the working environment of members of parliament. In Ethiopia, UNDP supported the national priority of

decentralization. In South Africa, activities in support of provincial and local administrations included training in budget management and accounting and financial management, as well as strengthening the legislature through administrative and policy enhancement.

19. The explosion of conflicts in parts of West Africa and the Great Lakes region has been a major constraint to economic recovery in the region. To help Africa address this challenge, RBA allocated an unusually high proportion of human and financial resources to conflict prevention, resolution and management. The Bureau supports the establishment of early warning mechanisms, the most notable case being the RBA-supported project on OAU conflict prevention, management and resolution. UNDP was one of the few development partners to continue to support countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone when other partners withdrew or limited their support to humanitarian assistance.

20. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNDP supported the rehabilitation of the National Agricultural Research Centre, including the research centres in M'vuazi, Ngandajika and Mulungu, as well as the geographical areas of North and East Kivu. A special unit was established in the country office to monitor humanitarian assistance projects, implemented in close collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization and NGOs. The projects contributed significantly towards the return of the displaced population and their reintegration into the socio-economic life of the areas being rehabilitated. UNDP increased support to rehabilitate feeder roads in rural areas and mobilized the necessary resources. As a result, 71 roadwork site supervisors and 363 team supervisors were trained throughout the country's provinces, and 792 kilometres of feeder roads and 267 meters of bridges were restored.

21. For Rwanda, 1997 was a year of transition towards development. UNDP supported the re-establishment of the University of Rwanda, including the Institute of Science, Technology and Management in Kigali, and the provision of vocational training in welding, carpentry, masonry, and electrical engineering. The Rwanda Trust Fund, which focuses on the reintegration and demobilization of ex-combatants, was managed by the UNDP country office. UNDP helped to train drivers, lorry mechanics and cadets of the Communal Police.

22. In Burundi, UNDP was involved in assistance to war victims through grass-roots activities in capacity-building for management development, revival of the agricultural sector, peace education and rehabilitation of the health sector.

23. In the United Republic of Tanzania, a multi-donor, inter-agency programme for rehabilitation of the refugee-affected areas in Kagera initiated by UNDP aimed at strengthening local administrative capacity for environmental and socio-economic rehabilitation of the region.

24. UNDP efforts through the intermediation of a former President of Mali to provide technical support to the efforts set in motion at the France-Africa

Summit, held in Burkina Faso, in December 1996, to re-establish peace in the Central African Republic, have also been widely acclaimed. The success of UNDP in the Central African Republic represents a landmark in preventive development. This was acclaimed in the Security Council when UNDP was requested to continue to provide critical support to the initiatives under way for mediation of the crisis in that country. UNDP is assisting in the demobilization and reintegration of 1,000 ex-combatants in the Central African Republic.

25. Some of the substantive support for post-conflict peace-building was made through the regional project Africa 2000 Network, which provides grants of up to $50,000 to some of the most disadvantaged communities in support of grass-roots rehabilitation and development efforts. In all post-conflict situations, priority was given to reintegrating displaced persons, while ensuring the full involvement of women and youth in the process.

26. UNDP, together with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, FAO, UNICEF, and WFP, fielded a humanitarian mission to the Comoros in September 1997, in accordance with General Assembly decision 51/30 F of 13 December 1996. The mission concluded that the country needed emergency assistance in food, agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries, health, nutrition, education, water supply and sanitation. The report was sent to the major development partners of the Comoros.

27. UNDP helped to mobilize $500,000 for the Seychelles' disaster preparedness capability in the aftermath of torrential rains in August 1997 from the El Niño weather pattern.

C. Gender equality and the advancement of women

28. RBA continues to support and dialogue with Governments, civil society and the media about gender-mainstreaming concerns in all countries. Targeting poor women is at the centre of many programmes. UNDP-supported national action plans and gender theme groups have contributed towards enabling Governments to implement the agenda of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

29. In 1997, the UNDP regional programme approved a $5.35 million multifaceted programme aimed at addressing some of the structural and institutional obstacles to gender equality and equity in Africa. The programme promotes women's roles in political decision-making, peace-building, economic decision-making and the media. The programme will strengthen a region-wide network of women parliamentarians and councillors; support women in their efforts to attain political leadership and decision-making positions through alternative affirmative action mechanisms and training programmes for skills development; and support the formation of women's peace networks and advocacy roles in peace-building.

30. For maximum impact and manageability, the programme will focus on a selected number of RBA "countries of experimentation". Clustered in two groups, they include Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, and the Republic of Tanzania; and Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda. The

programme will develop benchmarks and indicators to measure progress on gender equity. The first phase of the programme was initiated with the convening of a regional gender round-table, jointly organized by the RBA and the UNDP South Africa country office in December 1997. This meeting served to bring together the diverse partners who are to implement the various subcomponents of the programme. Over 15 civil society organizations and research institutions presented practical strategies to enrich the programme, focusing on political and economic empowerment, legal reforms and social policy. Key partners include organizations with a gender focus such as Women in Law and Development in Africa, the Forum for Women in Democracy, the West African Management Development Institutes network, the Africa Federation of Entrepreneurs, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and Ennang Basadi Association.

31. The Gender Programme will be implemented in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, supporting gender focal points with the aim of mainstreaming gender concerns. In this context, South-South cooperation will remain important.

32. In collaboration with ECA, the UNDP Gender-in-Development Programme, OSCAL, and United Nations agencies, RBA sponsored over 60 African women entrepreneurs to attend the Asia/Africa Forum on the Economic Empowerment of Women, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 1997, and the Conference of the International Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, held in Ghana, in September 1997. This led to a proposal for the establishment of a "One Stop Centre" for women entrepreneurs in all the subregions to provide business information as well as a study tour on technology-sharing and networking among women entrepreneurs in the food processing sector. Coordinated by the ECA, the first study tour for approximately 20 African women entrepreneurs to India will take place in April 1998. In addition, UNDP is providing technical and financial support to ECA for its fortieth anniversary celebration, which will coincide with a conference entitled African Women and Economic Development: Investing in our Future, scheduled to be held in April 1998. The conference aims to forge consensus on 10 strategic areas of focus. Over 500 participants are expected to attend, including Heads of State.

D. Environmental protection

33. Together with the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought, RBA continued to support the launching and implementation of the National Action Programme processes for combating desertification and drought in 16 African countries. Through a programme funded by RBA, UNVs are being attached to the national coordinating bodies in several African countries. The UNVs will assist in initiating and institutionalizing participatory planning processes in the spirit of the Convention to Combat Desertification and/or Drought in those Countries Experiencing Desertification and/or Drought, Particularly in Africa and build the capacity of civil society organizations to implement the Convention and to establish National Desertification Funds. The latter have been set up in more than 20 countries. The Global Environment Facility's portfolio in Africa consists of 23 projects, 16 enabling activities, and

16 project development funds, which amounted to about $85 million in 1996. These efforts were designed to help combat environment problems in the preservation of biodiversity, the prevention of global warming and the protection of international waters.

E. Management issues

34. The Regional Bureau for Africa was reorganized towards the end of 1997 and the former three geographic divisions were consolidated into two operations groups to streamline functions and improve the effectiveness of interventions. The regional programme division was incorporated into the operations groups. Two new units were established: the Policy Unit and the Unit for Countries in Special Development Situations. The former will strengthen the policy aspects of the Bureau; the latter will enable the Bureau to pay greater attention to crisis situations. Staff reductions will be effected in 1998.

III. KEY CHALLENGES AND PLANS FOR 1998

35. As the new millennium approaches, UNDP will continue to collaborate with African programme countries to consolidate achievements and tackle the problems that remain.

36. For 1998, emphasis will be placed on:

(a) More effective implementation of the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa;

(b) Helping to improve the quality of economic reform programmes to make them more human-centred;

(c) Enhancing the access of the poor to basic services;

(d) Mobilizing donor support and resources for governance programmes, and providing support for early warning mechanisms and coping with crises, with particular emphasis on the move from reconstruction to development;

(e) Continuing to support efforts by programme countries to adopt or stay the course of macroeconomic reform and to implement the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative;

(f) Supporting efforts that enable African countries to become better integrated into the global economy, mainly through fair trade practices, opening up developed countries' markets to African exporters, expanding non-traditional exports and providing short-term relief to countries that experience a sharp drop in export earnings due to external "shocks".